

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original) A microchamber for cell culture, which comprises a substrate which does not absorb light of a specific wavelength, and an absorption layer which absorbs light of the specific wavelength and a region made of a solid substance which does not absorb light of the specific wavelength and has a melting point lower than the boiling point of water, both being laid over the substrate.

Claim 2 (Original) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim 1, wherein the absorption layer is a thin film laid over the surface of the substrate and the region made of a substance having a melting point lower than the boiling point of water is formed over the absorption layer.

Claim 3 (Original) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim 2, wherein the thin film as the absorption layer has a thickness permitting a transmittance of 50% or greater to visible light.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim ~~1~~^{any one of Claims 1 to 3}, wherein the absorption layer is a thin film pattern laid over the surface of the substrate and the line width of the pattern is narrower than the specific wavelength.

Claim 5 (Original) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim 1, wherein the absorption layer is made of fine particles which absorb light of the specific wavelength and the fine particles are disposed in the substance having a melting point lower than the boiling point of water.

Claim 6 (Original) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim 1, wherein the solid substance having a melting point lower than the boiling point of water has a melting point not greater than 45°C.

Claim 7 (Original) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim 1, wherein the solid substance having a melting point lower than the boiling point of water is agarose.

Claim 8 (Original) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim 1, wherein as the solid substance having a melting point lower than the boiling point of water, at least two substances different in melting point are placed in combination.

Claim 9 (Original) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim 1, wherein light of the specific wavelength is light of a wavelength not absorbed by water.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A cell culture apparatus equipped with the microchamber for cell culture as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~, which comprises a unit of irradiating light of the specific wavelength capable of forming a space by heating and melting a region made of a solid substance which does not absorb light of the specific wavelength and has a melting point lower than the boiling point of water.

Claim 11 (Original) The cell culture apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the unit of irradiating light irradiates a focused beam.

Claim 12 (New) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim 2, wherein the absorption layer is a thin film pattern laid over the surface of the substrate and the line width of the pattern is narrower than the specific wavelength.

Claim 13 (New) The microchamber for cell culture according to Claim 3, wherein the absorption layer is a thin film pattern laid over the surface of the substrate and the line width of the pattern is narrower than the specific wavelength.

Claim 14 (New) A cell culture apparatus equipped with the microchamber for cell culture as claimed in Claim 2, which comprises a unit of irradiating light of the specific wavelength capable of forming a space by heating and melting a region made of a solid

substance which does not absorb light of the specific wavelength and has a melting point lower than the boiling point of water.

Claim 15 (New) A cell culture apparatus equipped with the microchamber for cell culture as claimed in Claim 3, which comprises a unit of irradiating light of the specific wavelength capable of forming a space by heating and melting a region made of a solid substance which does not absorb light of the specific wavelength and has a melting point lower than the boiling point of water.

Claim 16 (New) A cell culture apparatus equipped with the microchamber for cell culture as claimed in Claim 4, which comprises a unit of irradiating light of the specific wavelength capable of forming a space by heating and melting a region made of a solid substance which does not absorb light of the specific wavelength and has a melting point lower than the boiling point of water.

Claim 17 (New) A cell culture apparatus equipped with the microchamber for cell culture as claimed in Claim 5, which comprises a unit of irradiating light of the specific wavelength capable of forming a space by heating and melting a region made of a solid substance which does not absorb light of the specific wavelength and has a melting point lower than the boiling point of water.

Claim 18 (New) A cell culture apparatus equipped with the microchamber for cell culture as claimed in Claim 6, which comprises a unit of irradiating light of the specific wavelength capable of forming a space by heating and melting a region made of a solid substance which does not absorb light of the specific wavelength and has a melting point lower than the boiling point of water.

Claim 19 (New) A cell culture apparatus equipped with the microchamber for cell culture as claimed in Claim 7, which comprises a unit of irradiating light of the specific wavelength capable of forming a space by heating and melting a region made of a solid

substance which does not absorb light of the specific wavelength and has a melting point lower than the boiling point of water.

Claim 20 (New) A cell culture apparatus equipped with the microchamber for cell culture as claimed in Claim 8, which comprises a unit of irradiating light of the specific wavelength capable of forming a space by heating and melting a region made of a solid substance which does not absorb light of the specific wavelength and has a melting point lower than the boiling point of water.